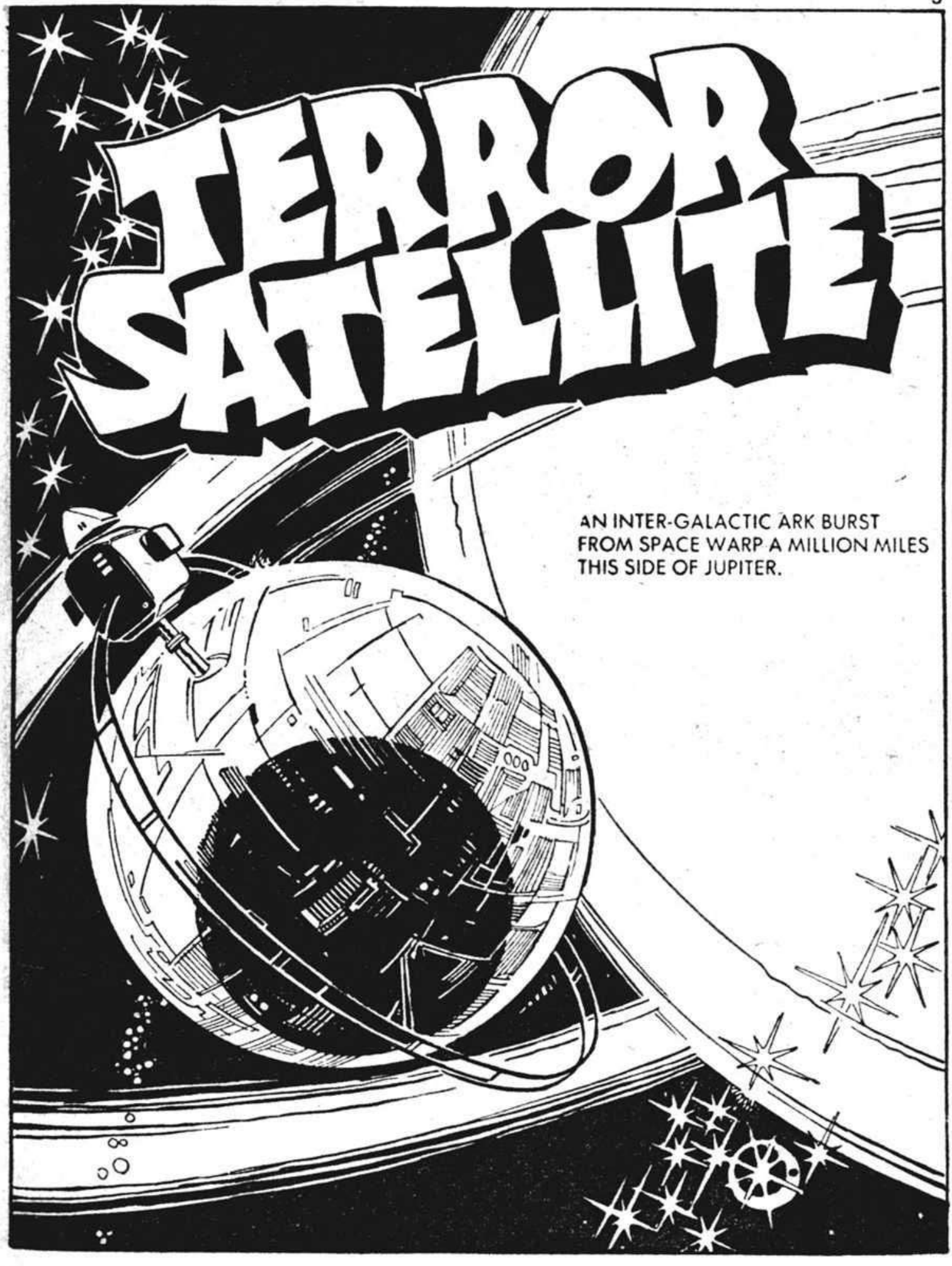
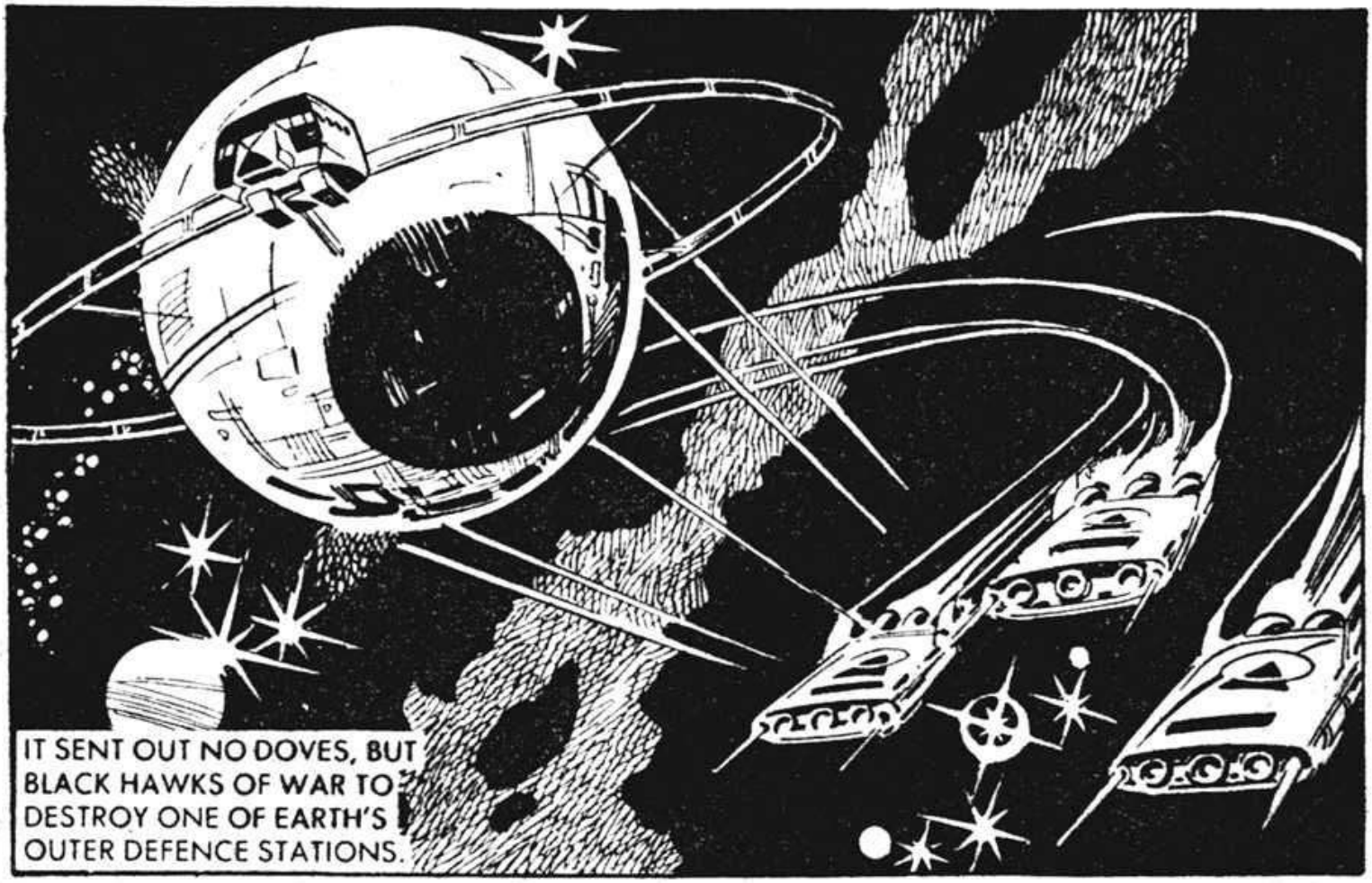
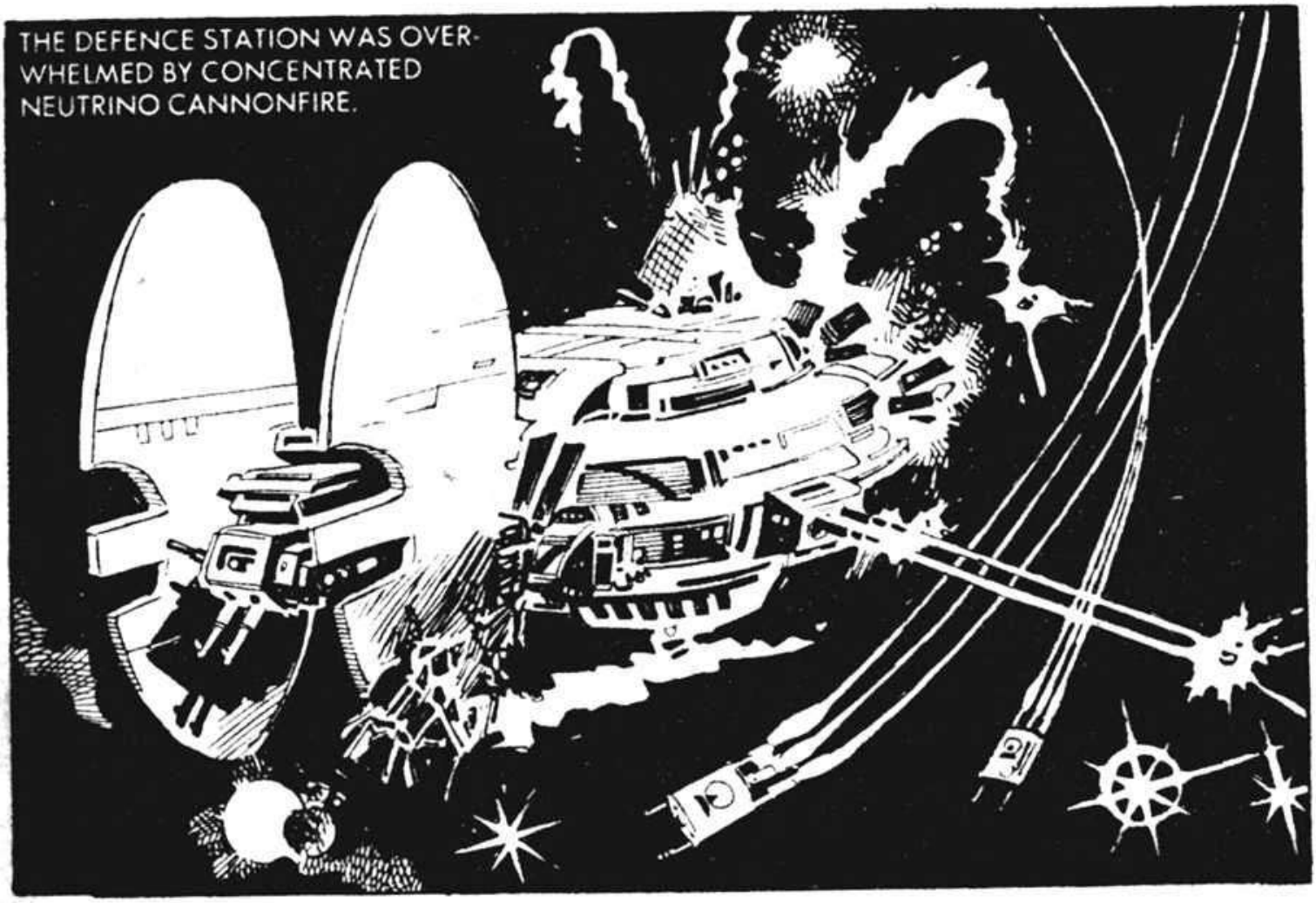
STARBLAZER
SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No.10
12p
AUS 40c NZ
TERROR SATELLITE

STARBLAZER
Long, long before the first dinosaur roared on Earth, sometime, somewhere in a forgotten layer of eternity the Yakutzees began their wanderings. Flipping back and forth across the Universe through space and time in their galactic ark, they had seen the blinding splendour of flaring super novae, and fought against the gravity of collapsed white dwarf stars.
A thousand centuries later they decided to end their voyaging and so sought a permanent home. And the planet they chose was known to its inhabitants as EARTH!

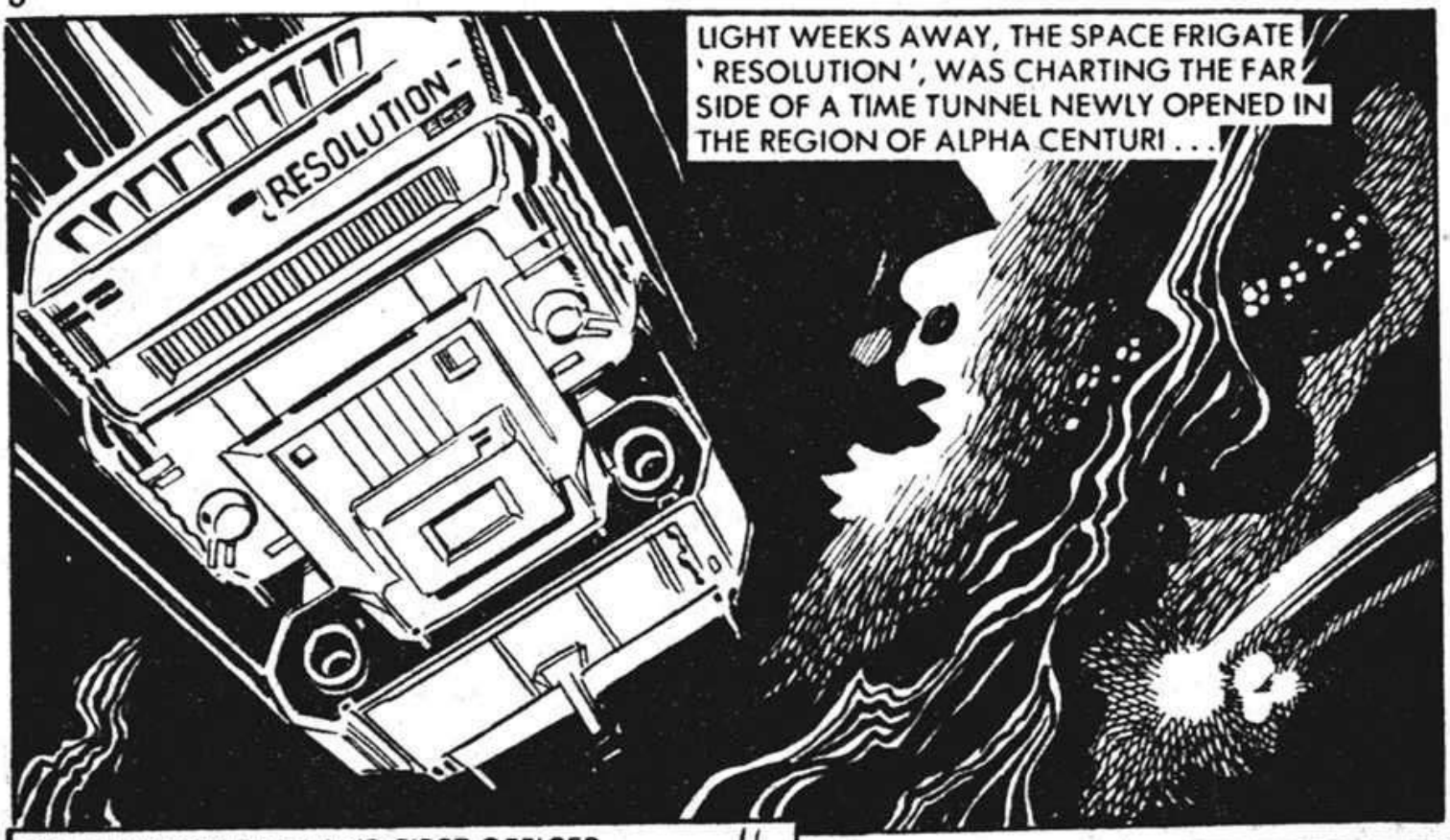

TERROR SATELLITE
AN INTER-GALACTIC ARK BURST FROM SPACE WARP A MILLION MILES THIS SIDE OF JUPITER.


IT SENT OUT NO DOVES, BUT BLACK HAWKS OF WAR TO DESTROY ONE OF EARTH'S OUTER DEFENCE STATIONS.

LEADER TO PACK . . . CONCENTRATE FIRE ON CRAFT IN VECTOR 2102.


THE DEFENCE STATION WAS OVER-WHELMED BY CONCENTRATED NEUTRINO CANNONFIRE.

GRAND ADMIRAL LANYON IN CHARGE OF TERRESTRIAL DEFENCE, PREPARED TO DEFEND EARTH.
BLERIOT SQUADRON HAS BEEN ELIMINATED. 100% CASUALTIES.
CALL IN EVERY VESSEL WE HAVE . . . NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE . . . WE NEED THEM ALL HERE. SEND OUT SIGNAL TORPS.

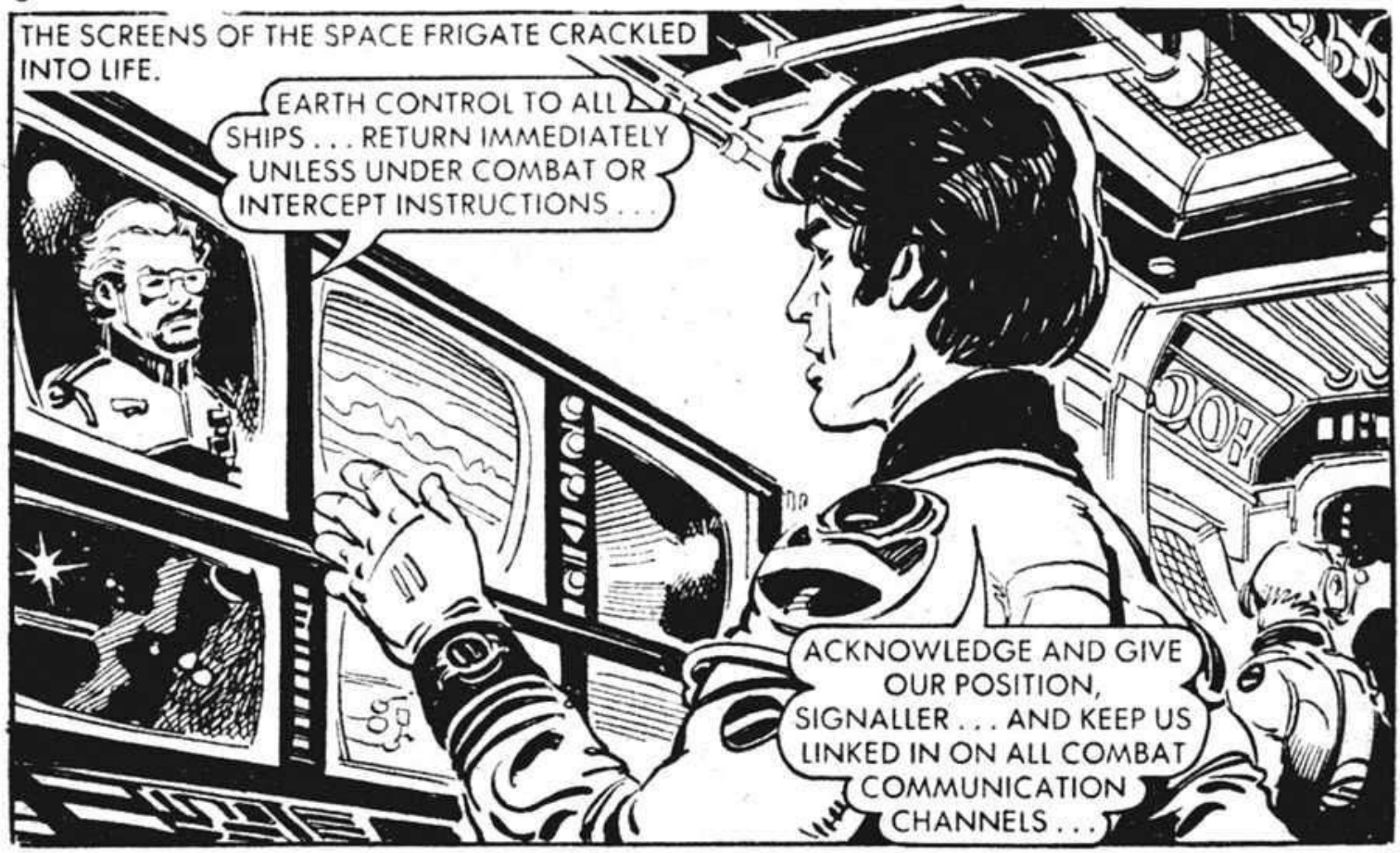

RESOLUTION
LIGHT WEEKS AWAY, THE SPACE FRIGATE ' RESOLUTION ', WAS CHARTING THE FAR SIDE OF A TIME TUNNEL NEWLY OPENED IN THE REGION OF ALPHA CENTURI . . .

COMMANDER FINN AND FIRST OFFICER " ENGINES " DUFFY WERE ON THE BRIDGE.
WE NEED A COURSE TO BRING US INTO ORBIT AROUND THE SECOND PLANET OF THE SYSTEM IN SECTOR FIVE-A.
RIGHT AWAY, SIR . . .

A SIGNAL TORP . . . RECALL!
CUT NEUTRINO DRIVE . . . PREPARE TO ENGAGE WARP PHASERS . . .
RESOLUTION
A SIGNAL TORPEDO WAS A BEAM OF ENERGY THAT COULD CONTACT EARTH SHIPS ANYWHERE.

MAXWARP!

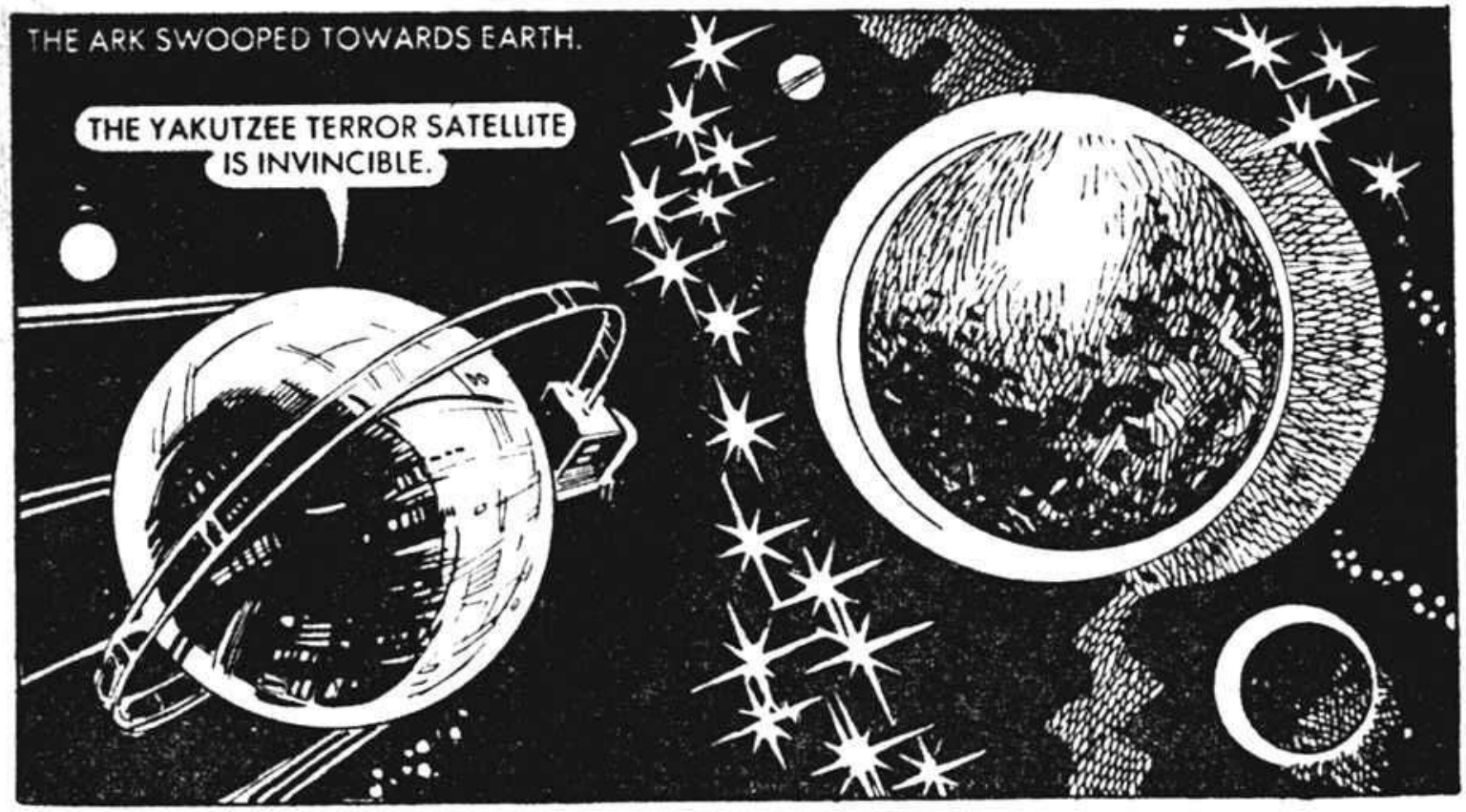
RESOLUTION EMERGED FROM THE TIME TUNNEL ON THE OUTER EDGE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM. EARTH WAS MANY WEEKS AWAY.


THE SCREENS OF THE SPACE FRIGATE CRACKLED INTO LIFE.
EARTH CONTROL TO ALL SHIPS . . . RETURN IMMEDIATELY UNLESS UNDER COMBAT OR INTERCEPT INSTRUCTIONS . . .
ACKNOWLEDGE AND GIVE OUR POSITION, SIGNALLER . . . AND KEEP US LINKED IN ON ALL COMBAT COMMUNICATION CHANNELS . . .

WHO ARE THE HOSTILES, SIR?
I DON'T KNOW!
PEGASUS SQD
INTRUDERS HOSTIL
CO ORDS - 200:20

MANY WEEKS AWAY FROM RESOLUTION.
THAT'S ANOTHER OF THE EARTH CRAFT SHOT DOWN.

THE EARTH SHIPS HAD NO DEFENCE AGAINST THE ALIEN PULSE CANNONS WHICH HURLED MASSIVE BLASTS OF MAGNETIC FORCE TO RIP THE FIERY HEARTS OUT OF THEIR SUBATOMIC ENGINES.


THE ARK SWOOPED TOWARDS EARTH.
THE YAKUTZEE TERROR SATELLITE IS INVINCIBLE.

THE TERROR SATELLITE SLID INTO ORBIT AROUND EARTH, AND THE DEADLY HAWKS SWOOPED DOWN.
MURDERERS!

THEY SCORCHED EARTH'S FORESTS AND FIELDS. STAINED ITS OCEANS WITH DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

WHAT DO THEY WANT OF US?

ON BOARD RESOLUTION.
CONTACT LOST ON CHANNELS ONE TO SEVEN, SIR.
CHANNEL FIFTEEN DEAD.

CHANNEL EIGHT . . . MALFUNCTION.

NO CONTACT WITH EARTH. WHAT DO WE DO NOW, FINN?
OBEY OUR LAST ORDER . . . AND STRIKE WHAT MAY WELL BE THE LAST BLOW FOR EARTH!

ALL THE POWER YOU'VE GOT IN OUR ENGINES! EMERGENCY THRUST!
AYE, AYE, SIR!

CHECK ALL WEAPONRY! READY ALL SYSTEMS! STAND-BY AT COMBAT STATIONS.

AS 'RESOLUTION' STREAKED TOWARDS DISTANT EARTH IT RAN INTO A METEORITE STORM.
RESOLUTION

METEORITE DAMAGE TO SOLAR PANELS. IT HAS REDUCED OUR POWER INTAKE BY FORTY PER CENT.
THE DAMAGE WILL HAVE TO BE REPAIRED.

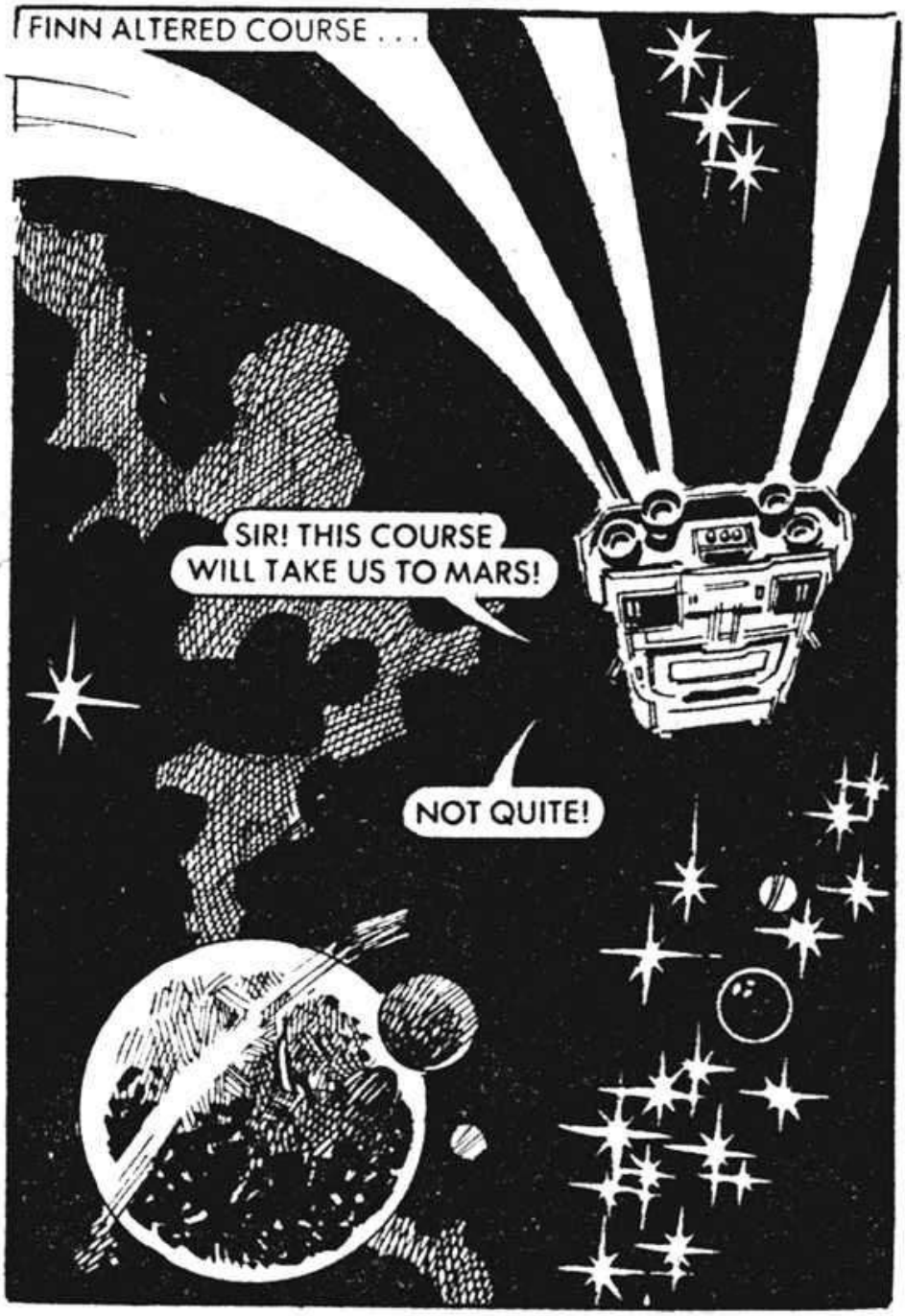
A MAINTENANCE ROBOT WAS LAUNCHED. ALL THE POWER HAD TO BE SHUT OFF.
DAMAGED PANELS WERE REMOVED AND REPLACED BY OTHERS FROM THE SIDE OF THE SHIP NOT FACING THE SUN.
UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT AHEAD!
STAND TO! SEND OUT CHALLENGE.

NO ANSWER, SIR. POWER ONLY SEVENTY PER CENT MAXIMUM.
THAT'LL HAVE TO DO! OPEN FIRE!
RESOLUTION

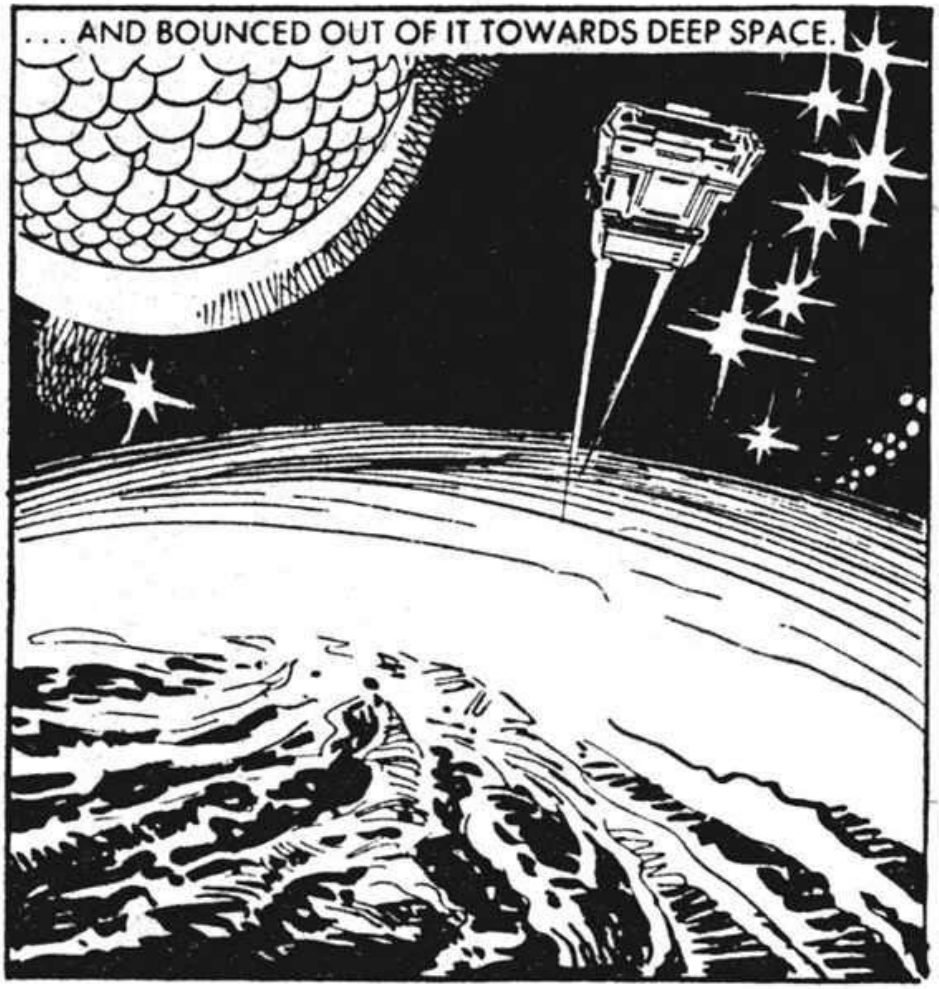
EVEN AT SEVENTY PER CENT POWER, RESOLUTION'S LASER WERE TOO POWERFUL FOR THE WAR HAWK.
WHO ARE THEY?
I DON'T KNOW . . . BUT THEY AIMED TO GET US.

MORE YAKUTZEE HAWKS WERE RELEASED . . . WITH ORDERS TO DESTROY THE RESOLUTION.

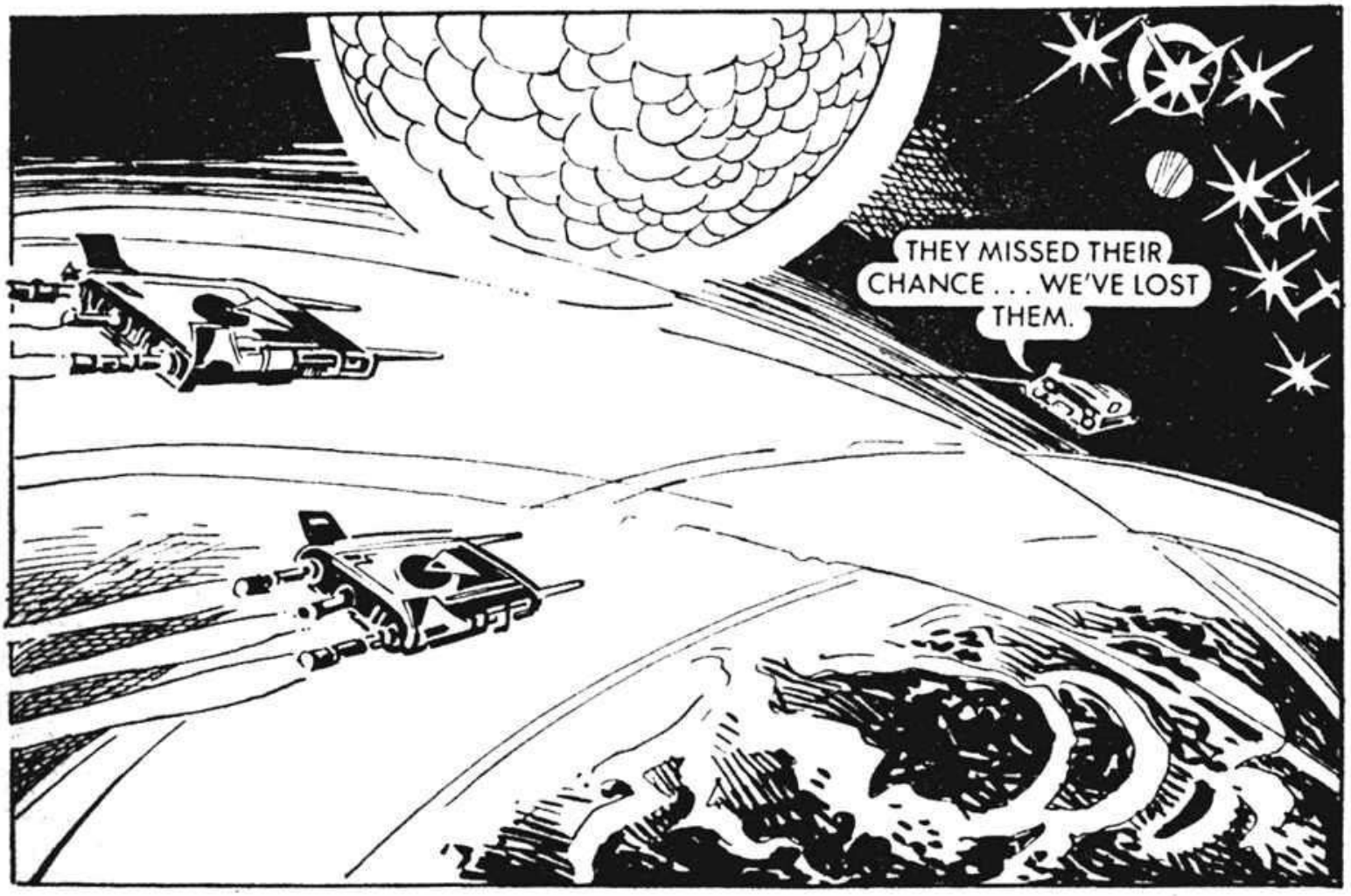
TWO HOSTILES . . . THEY'RE GAINING ON US.

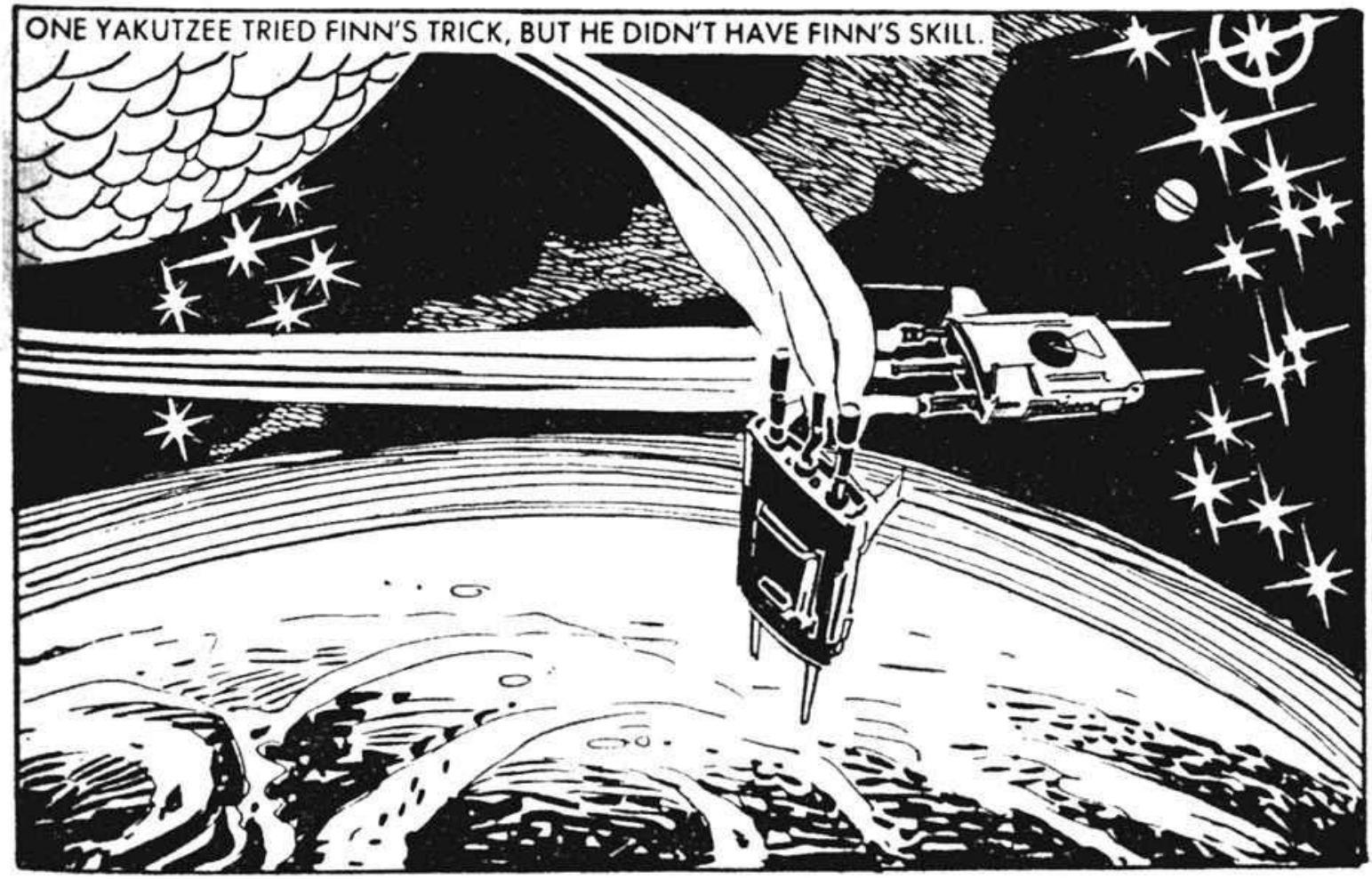

FINN ALTERED COURSE . . .
SIR! THIS COURSE WILL TAKE US TO MARS!
NOT QUITE!

RESOLUTION SKIMMED INTO THE OUTER WISPS OF MARTIAN ATMOSPHERE . . .


. . . AND BOUNCED OUT OF IT TOWARDS DEEP SPACE.

ACCELERATION INCREASE O . . . ONE . . . O!

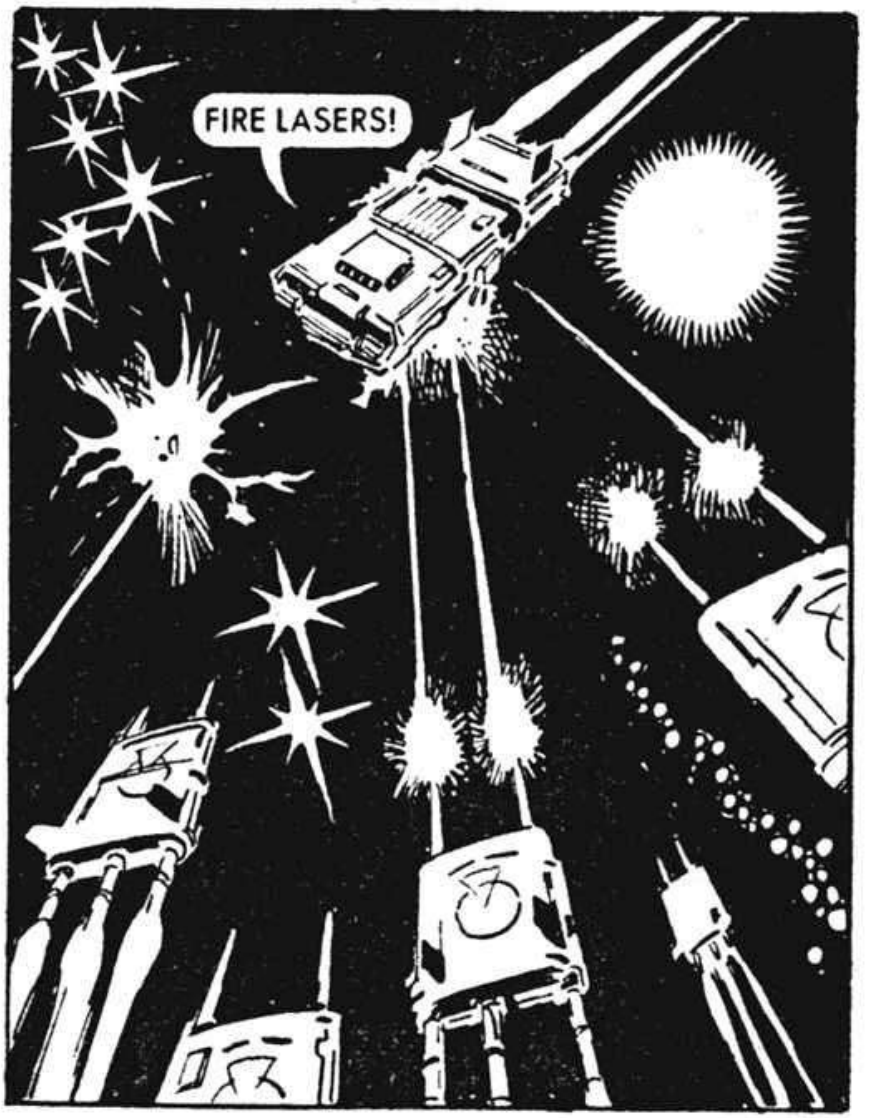

THEY MISSED THEIR CHANCE . . . WE'VE LOST THEM.


ONE YAKUTZEE TRIED FINN'S TRICK, BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE FINN'S SKILL.

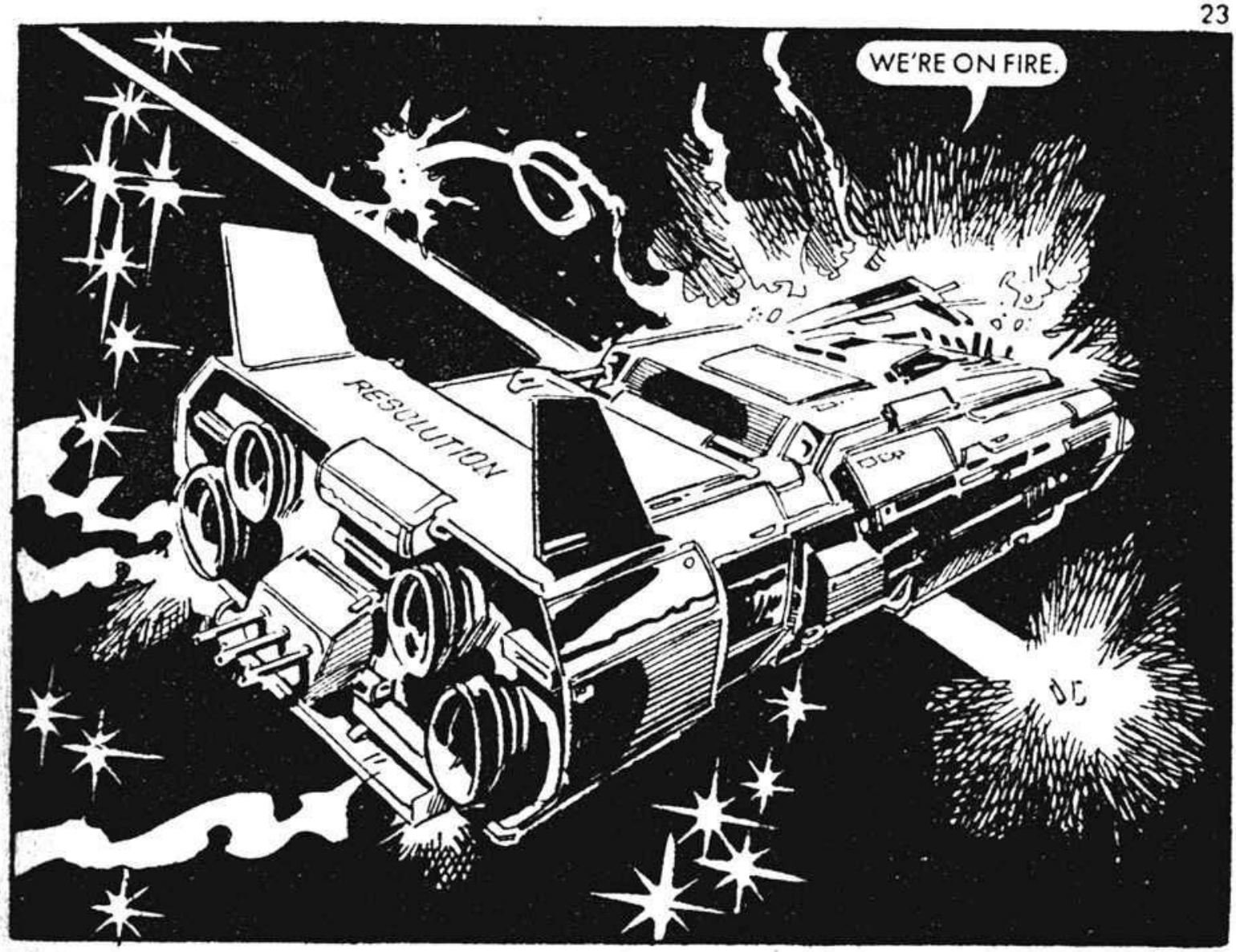
THERE SHE IS! DEAR OLD EARTH!
LOOK AT ALL THOSE FIGHTERS, SIR.

WE'VE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO. COMBAT STATIONS . . . STAND TO!

HERE THEY COME!


FIRE LASERS!

THE INSTRUMENTS ARE GOING HAYWIRE.
WE'VE BEEN HIT BY A MAGNETIC FORCE FIELD!
AND ANOTHER!


WE'RE ON FIRE.
RESOLUTION

ALL INSTRUMENTS MALFUNCTION . . . FIRE!

AN EXPLOSION RIPPED THE SOLAR PANELS APART.
RESOLUTION
NO POWER . . . SIR!!!!

FINN WAS BLASTED ACROSS THE CABIN BY AN EXPLODING NAVIGATION CONSOLE.

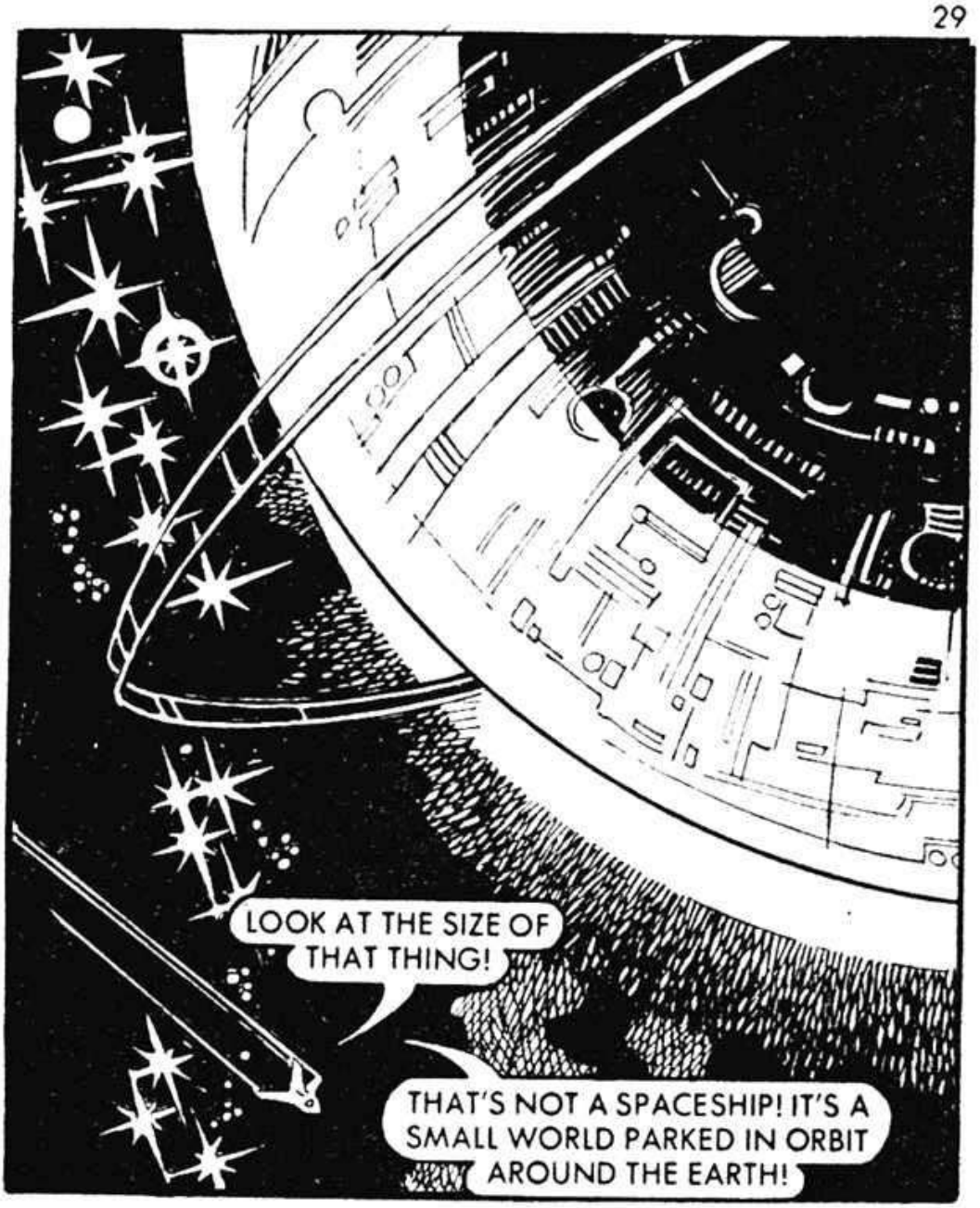
FIRE ROARED THROUGH THE SHIP!

DUFFY CAME FROM NOWHERE, USING A FOAM FIRE-KILLER.
IT'S NO USE SPRAYING THAT MUCK, DUFFY . . . THE WHOLE SHIP'S ABLAZE!
I'M TRYING TO SAVE OUR ONLY WAY OUT!

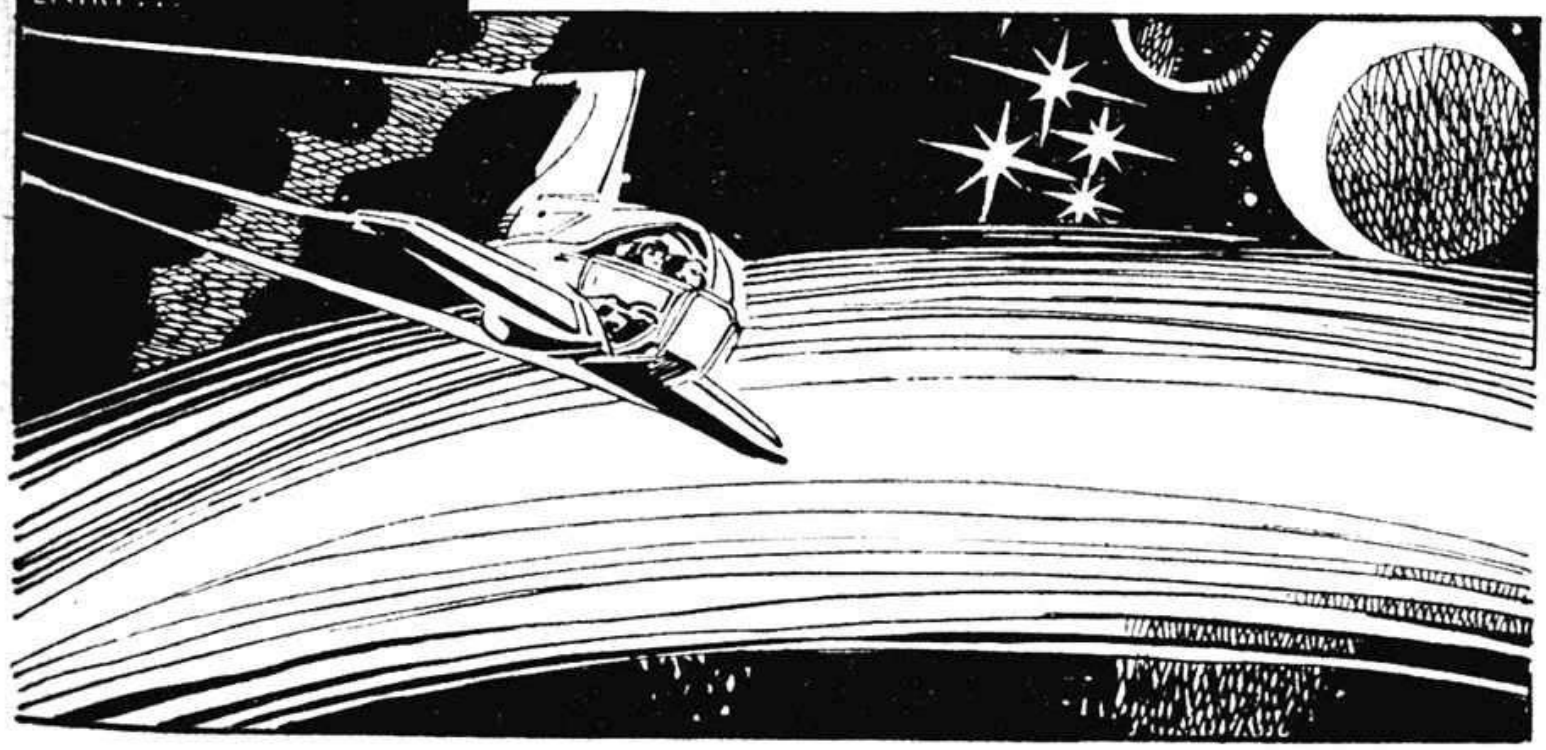
WE CAN USE THE MAINTENANCE CAPSULE!
BUT THE CREW . . . I CAN'T LEAVE THEM!

THEY'RE ALL DEAD, SIR. C'MON! GET A MOVE ON.

WITH A FINAL EXPLOSION FIRE RIPPED THE RESOLUTION APART.
RESOLUTION
JUST IN TIME, SKIPPER!
WE CAN JUST ABOUT REACH A RE-ENTRY ORBIT WITH ENOUGH POWER LEFT FOR CONTROLLED PLANET-FALL.
WE GOT OUT OF THE FIRE . . . NOW INTO FRYING PAN!



MINUTES LATER, THE TINY CAPSULE BEGAN RE-ENTRY . . .



THE CAPSULE BUMPED ITS WAY TO
THE DEVASTATED SURFACE OF EARTH.

ARE YOU STILL IN ONE PIECE, DUFFY?
I HURT ALL OVER, SO I MUST BE ALIVE!

HERE COMES SOMETHING. WHOEVER IS IN CONTROL HERE HASN'T WASTED MUCH TIME.
WE WERE PROBABLY WATCHED ALL THE WAY DOWN BY THAT GIANT SATELLITE.

SO THAT'S WHO THEY ARE! YAKUTZEES!

CO-OPERATE OR BE DESTROYED.
SO YOU LOT ARE BACK ON THE CONQUEST TRAIL. CO-OPERATE, DUFFY. THERE'S NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO—THEY'VE MURDERED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T " CO-OPERATE "!

THEY WERE USHERED ABOARD AND THE CRAFT SET OFF ON A HIGH-SPEED JOURNEY.

THE TWO PRISONERS WERE TAKEN INTO WHAT HAD ONCE BEEN A CONCERT HALL.
CO-OPERATE AND WE SHALL SHOW YOU MERCY. REFUSE AND . . .

WHAT ABOUT OUR LEADERS. HAVE YOU SHOWN THEM MERCY TOO, OR ARE THEY ALL DEAD?

NO! THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN A CHOICE. DEATH ON EARTH OR EXILE ON RIGEL 5 . . . NOT AN UNPLEASANT PLANET.

THE YAKUTZEE LEADER POINTED TO A HUGE SCREEN WHICH LEAPT TO BRILLIANT LIFE.
THEY ARE BOARDING THE SPACELINER NOW.

THERE ARE FIRST CLASS HIBERNATION CHAMBERS FOR ALL. IT IS A LONG JOURNEY TO RIGEL, EVEN THROUGH ONE OF YOUR TIME TUNNELS.
THERE'S ADMIRAL LANYON . . .
. . . AND COMMODORE SCOTT OF THE SURVEY FLEET . . .

YOU ARE TOO LATE FOR SUCH LUXURY TREATMENT, BUT WE SHALL BE MERCIFUL.
CLINK!

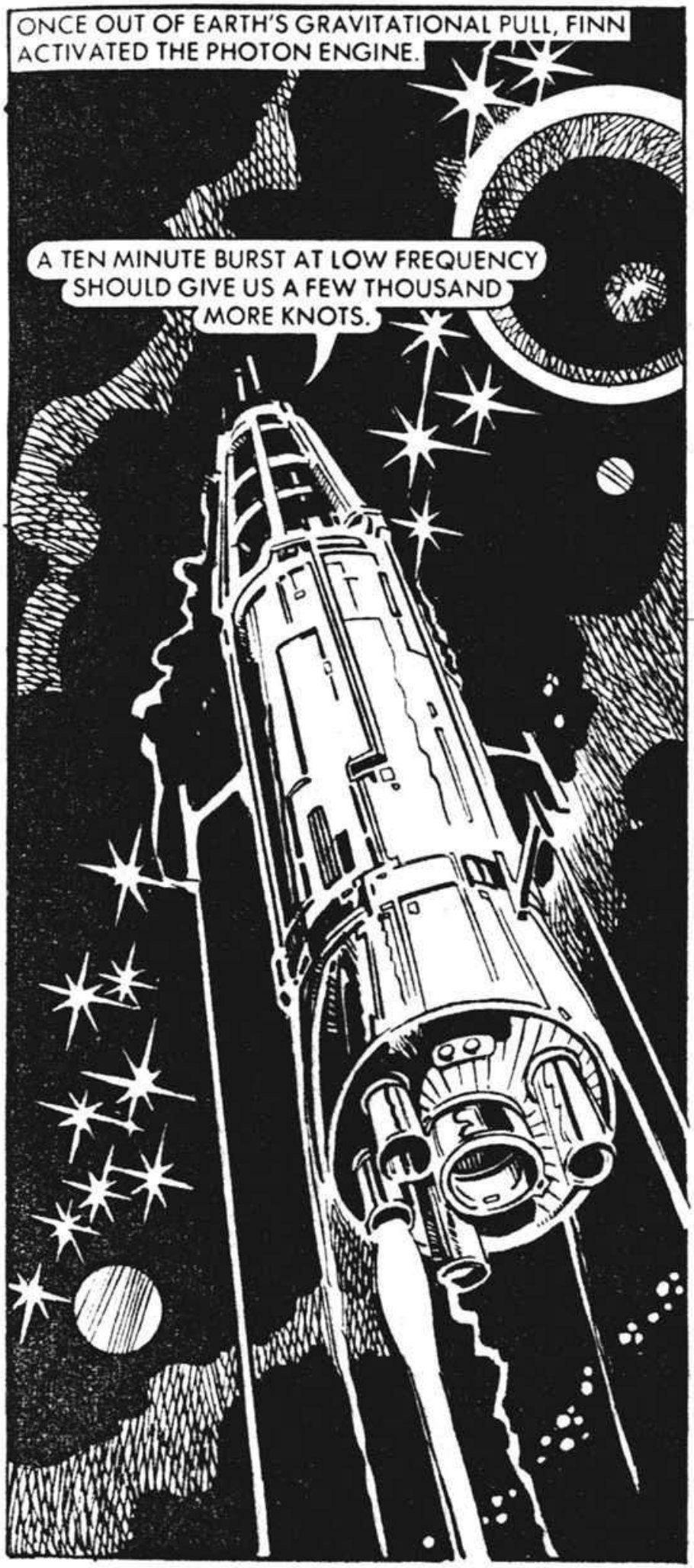
YOU WILL BE EXILED FROM EARTH FOR TWENTY YEARS. HERE IS YOUR SHIP!
AN OLD PHOTON-FREIGHTER?

IT HAS BEEN LOADED WITH RADIO-ACTIVE WAR DEBRIS. A PILOT AND ENGINEER ARE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS CARGO TO ONE OF PLUTO'S DEAD MOONS WHERE THERE WILL BE NO DANGER OF THE POLLUTION SPREADING.

FINN AND DUFFY WERE TAKEN TO THE SHIP AT ONCE.
SO THIS IS MERCY! SENT TO THE OTHER END OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM . . . TEN YEARS TO GET THERE AND ANOTHER TEN TO COME BACK!

MOORING LOCKS CLEARED! ALL SYSTEMS PRIMED.
STARTER ROCKETS PUMPING . . . WE HAVE IGNITION.

SMOKE! WHAT ARE THOSE OLD ROCKETS BURNING . . . WOOD?


ONCE OUT OF EARTH'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL, FINN ACTIVATED THE PHOTON ENGINE.
A TEN MINUTE BURST AT LOW FREQUENCY SHOULD GIVE US A FEW THOUSAND MORE KNOTS.

WHAT THE . . . ?
THIS SHIP IS RATTLING ITSELF TO PIECES.

SHE'S GOING CRITICAL . . . I'LL HAVE TO CUT THE POWER OR WE'LL EXPLODE.

ANOTHER TEN MINUTES OF THAT AND SHE'D HAVE BLOWN UP. I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A LOOK TO SEE WHAT'S WRONG BACK THERE.

FINN RETURNED WITH THE BAD NEWS.

LOOK AT THAT FUEL GUAGE . . . ' FULL '. YET WE'VE HAD A WHOLE FIVE MINUTE BURN. IT SHOULD INDICATE HOW MUCH FUEL WE HAVE LEFT.
½
%

THEY REMOVED THE INSPECTION COVER.
JAMMED! THIS WIRE WAS CROSSING TWO TERMINALS— DELIBERATELY DONE TO GIVE A FALSE READING.

THERE'S THE TRUE READING, NOW! LESS THAN HALF FULL!
SO WE DIDN'T EVEN SET OUT WITH A FULL FUEL LOAD. WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO GET TO PLUTO, LET ALONE THERE AND BACK.

IF WE TURN BACK, THE YAKUTZEES WILL DESTROY THIS FREIGHTER.
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE YOU OUGHT TO SEE. IN THE CARGO BAYS . . .
NO RADIO ACTIVE WASTE! THIS WHOLE TRIP WAS PLANNED.
WE'RE CONDEMNED TO DRIFT FOREVER. WE HAVEN'T ENOUGH POWER TO GO ANYWHERE.

WE VOLUNTEERED FOR A DEATH SENTENCE!

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE HOLD.

THIS ISN'T A STAR LINER!

THE OVERHEATING ENGINES HAD RAISED THE TEMPERATURE AND BROUGHT THE HUMAN CARGO OUT OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION.
THIS IS AN OLD FREIGHTLINER. WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?
THE REFRIGERATION SYSTEM HAS FAILED. DELIBERATELY, I SUSPECT! WE'VE BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH.

ONE BY ONE THE FROZEN MEN REVIVED.
THERE MUST BE A CREW ON THIS THING. WE'RE GOING TO TAKE OVER THIS SHIP—BY FORCE IF NECESSARY!

THEY'RE ON THE BRIDGE . . . UP FRONT.

CLANGK
TRAITORS!

GET 'EM!

THAT'S GRAND ADMIRAL LANYON . . . I THOUGHT HE WAS ON THE STARLINER . . .
SO DID WE ALL . . .
THE YAKUTZEES HAVE BETRAYED THE PROMISES THAT THEY MADE TO US, AND YOU HAVE HELPED THEM TO DO IT!
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THEM, ADMIRAL . . . PUSH THEM THROUGH THE AIR LOCK?

THEN FINN SAW A FACE HE KNEW.

SINCE WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE, LET'S TURN THE SHIP AROUND AND GO BACK AND FIGHT!

WHAT DO WE FIGHT WITH . . . FISTS?
THEY'D SEE US COMING FROM A MILLION MILES.

THEY WATCH EVERYTHING FROM THEIR SATELLITE. THEY CONTROL EARTH FROM IT, TOO. IF WE COULD DESTROY THE SATELLITE THEN WE DESTROY THEIR POWER AND WE DESTROY THEM!

AT LEAST WE'D GET BACK! THEIR MAGNETIC PULSE CANNONS WOULDN'T AFFECT THE PHOTON ENGINE. THERE'S NOTHING MAGNETIC ABOUT IT.
BUT WEAPONS, MAN! WE NEED WEAPONS!

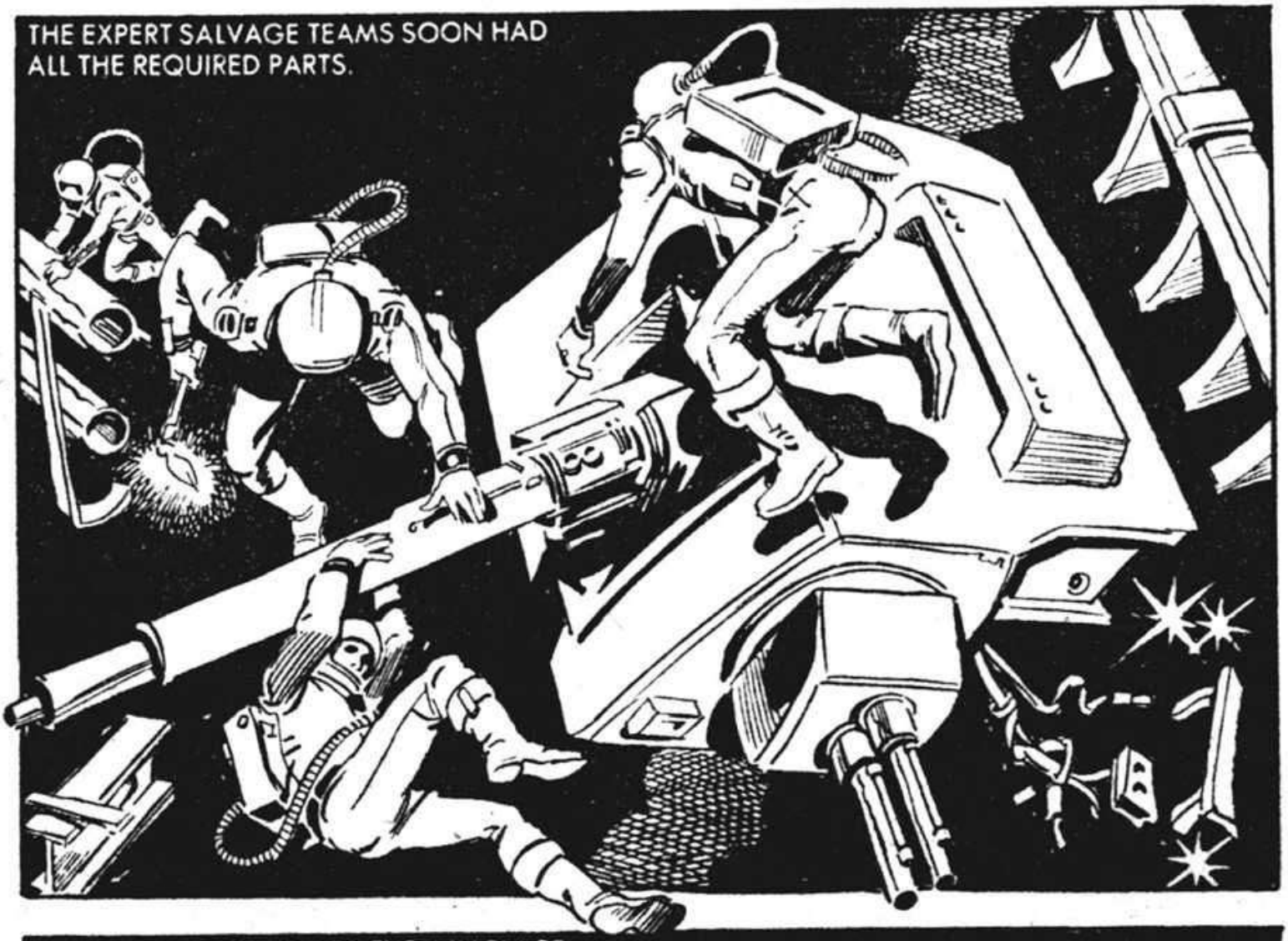
THERE'S A JUNK YARD FULL OF OBSOLETE SHIPS ORBITING NEAR THE ANDROMEDA ASTEROID BELT.
WHERE THE GRAND BATTLE WAS FOUGHT.

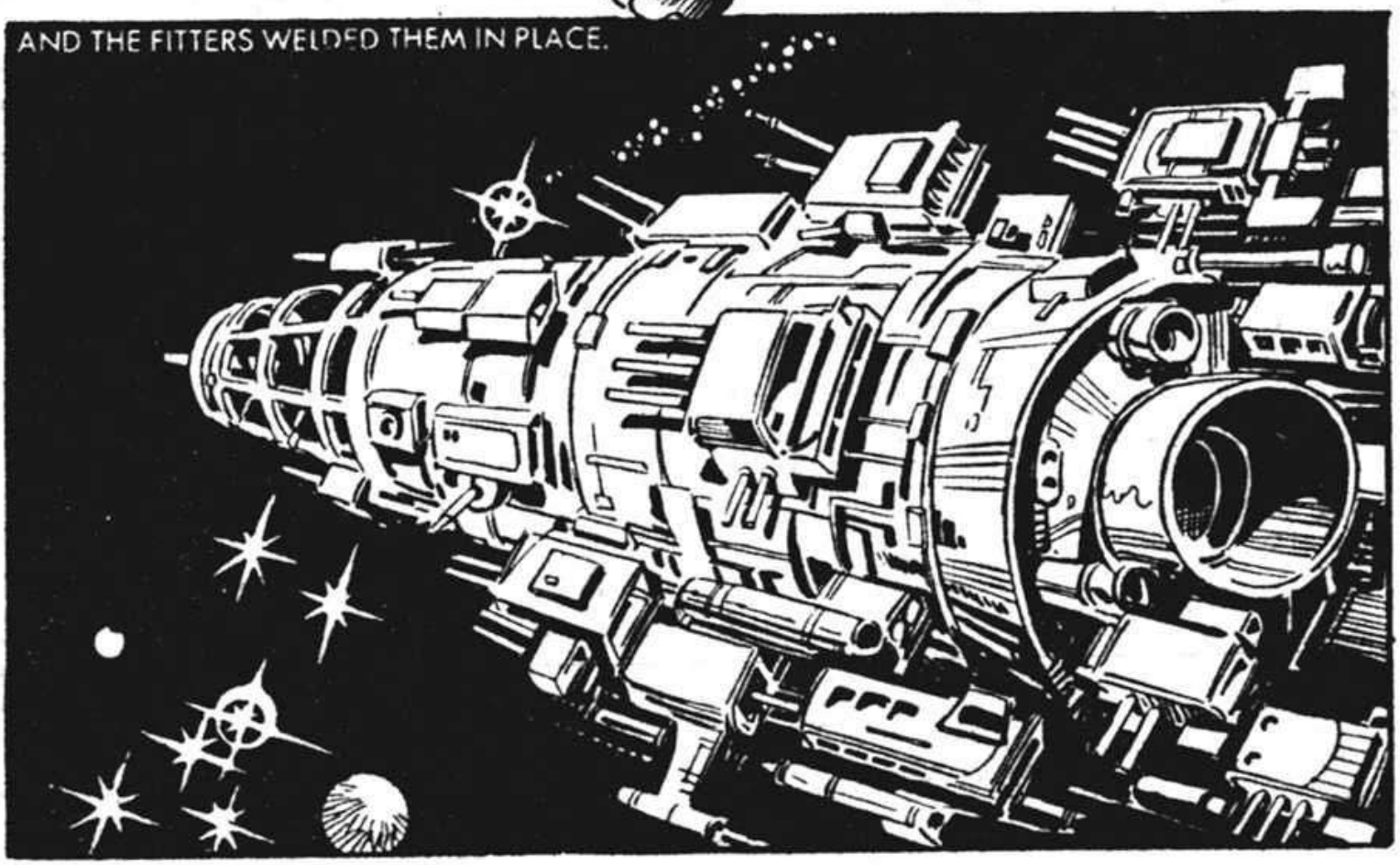
THE BATTERED OLD FREIGHTER TURNED ITS NOSE TOWARDS THE SITE OF THE GRAND BATTLE.

THERE ISN'T ENOUGH OXYGEN ABOARD FOR EVERYBODY TO BREATHE AT THE NORMAL RATE, SO GET SOME BACK INTO THE WORKING REFRIGERATION UNITS.
TRY HER AGAIN, SIR. THE ENGINES SHOULD BE SAFE FOR A FEW HOURS AT MAXIMUM.

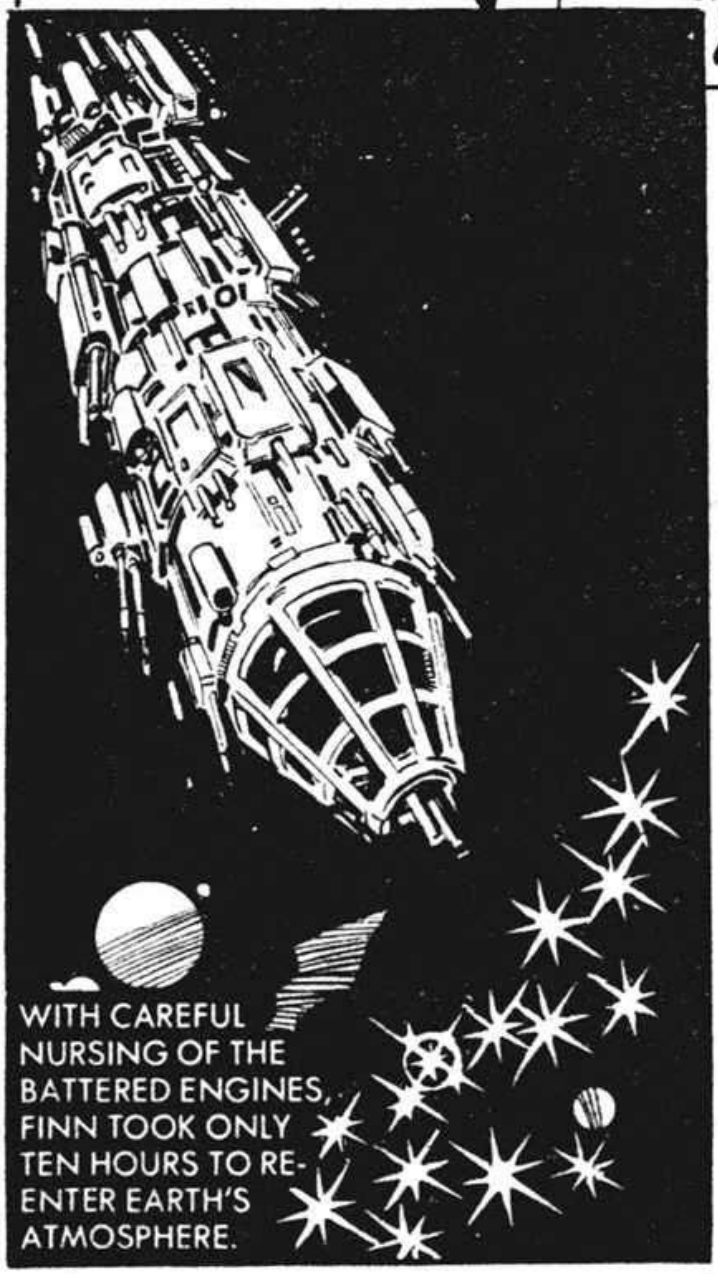
AFTER A LONG JOURNEY TO THE SCENE OF THE BATTLE, SEVERAL BURNED OUT WRECKS WERE FOUND.
THERE'S ONE! SALVAGE CREW STAND BY!

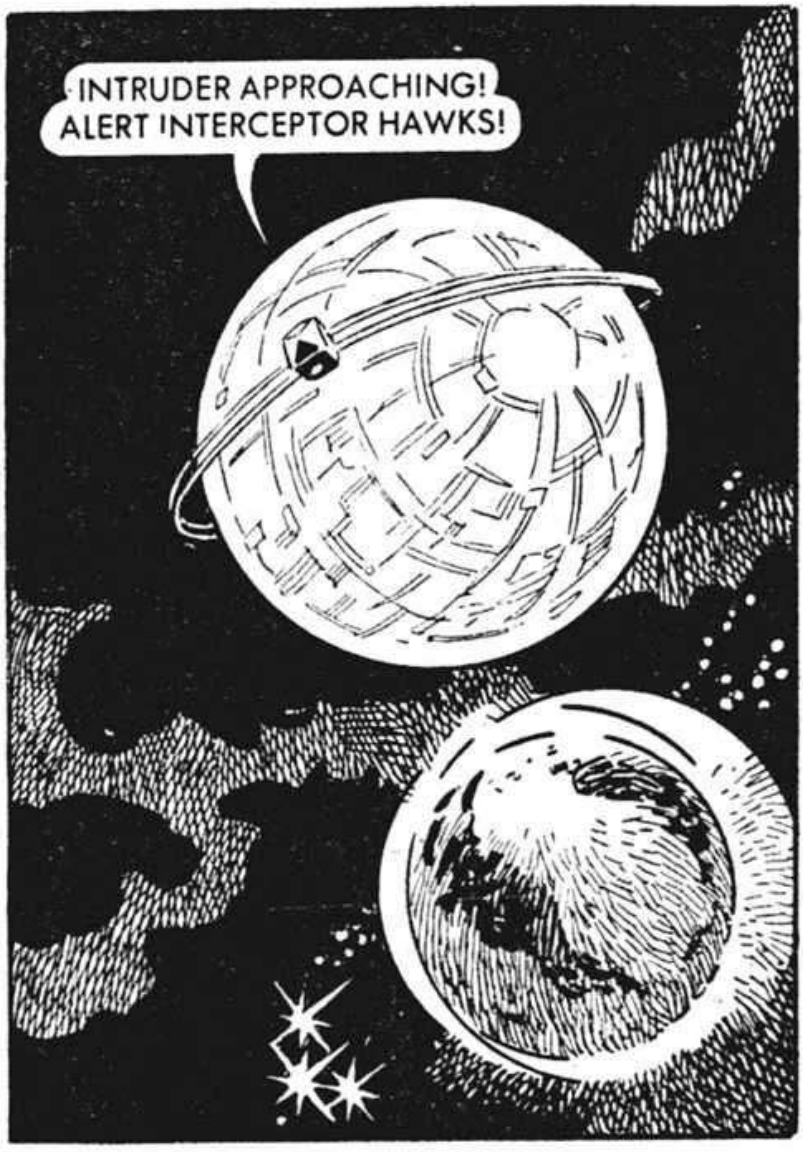
OKAY! STRIP DOWN THE LASER CANNON . . . WE NEED PARTS.


THE EXPERT SALVAGE TEAMS SOON HAD ALL THE REQUIRED PARTS.


AND THE FITTERS WELDED THEM IN PLACE.

FINN AND DUFFY CALCULATED THE CAPABILITIES OF THE NEW FIGHTER.
WE'VE LOADED ON ABOUT AS MUCH AS SHE'LL TAKE, SIR. I RECKON THE ENGINES HAVE A FEW HOURS BEFORE GOING CRITICAL.
RIGHT! CALL EVERYONE BACK ON BOARD! WE'LL START FOR HOME.


WITH CAREFUL NURSING OF THE BATTERED ENGINES, FINN TOOK ONLY TEN HOURS TO RE-ENTER EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.


INTRUDER APPROACHING! ALERT INTERCEPTOR HAWKS!

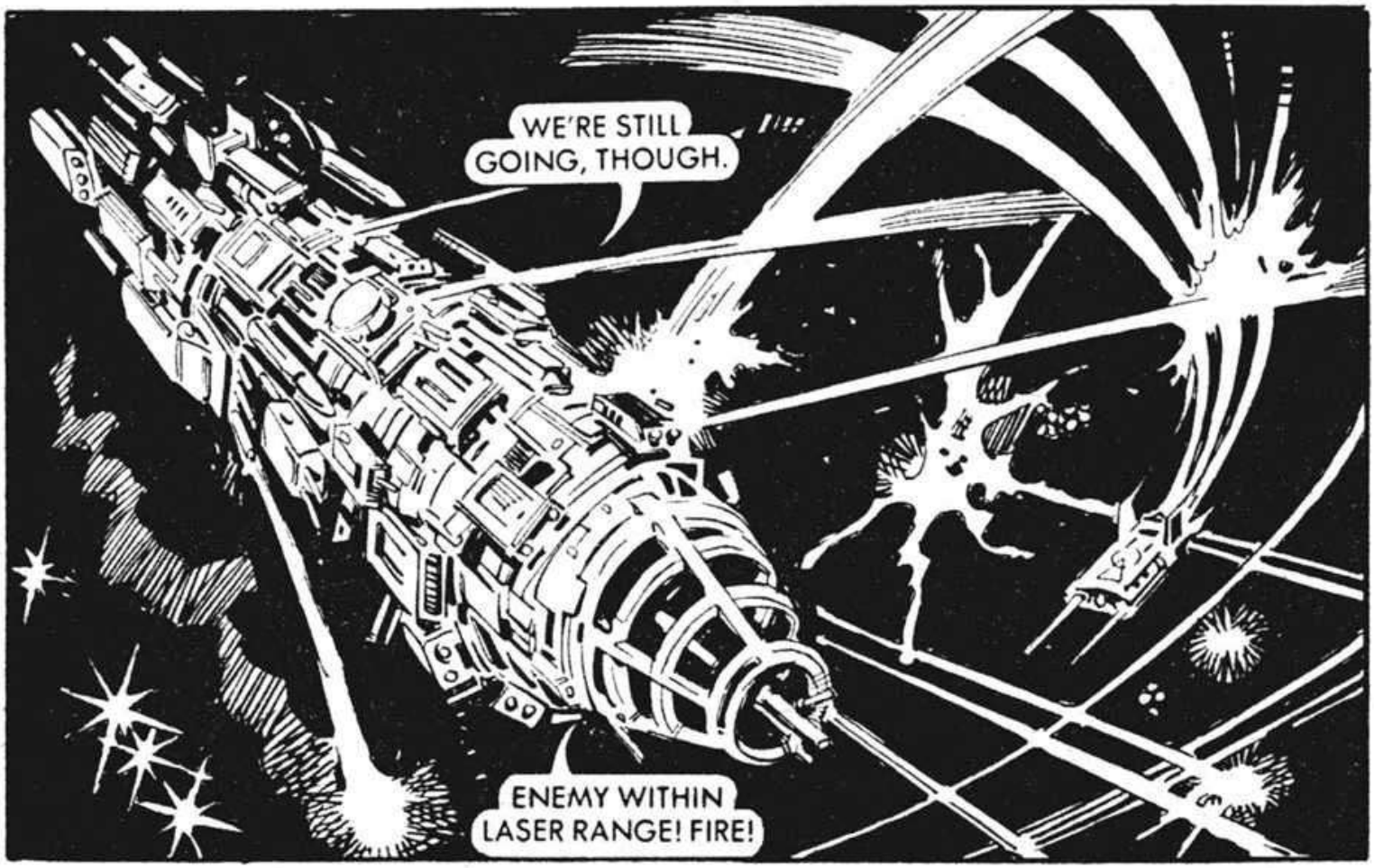
TIME TO WAKE UP THE DREAMERS, ADMIRAL. HIBERNATION TIME IS OVER.
I PRAY THIS THING GOES RIGHT.

THE EXILES CLIMBED OUT OF THEIR HIBERNATION CELLS . . .

. . . AND TOOK THEIR PLACES.

HERE COME THE ENEMY!

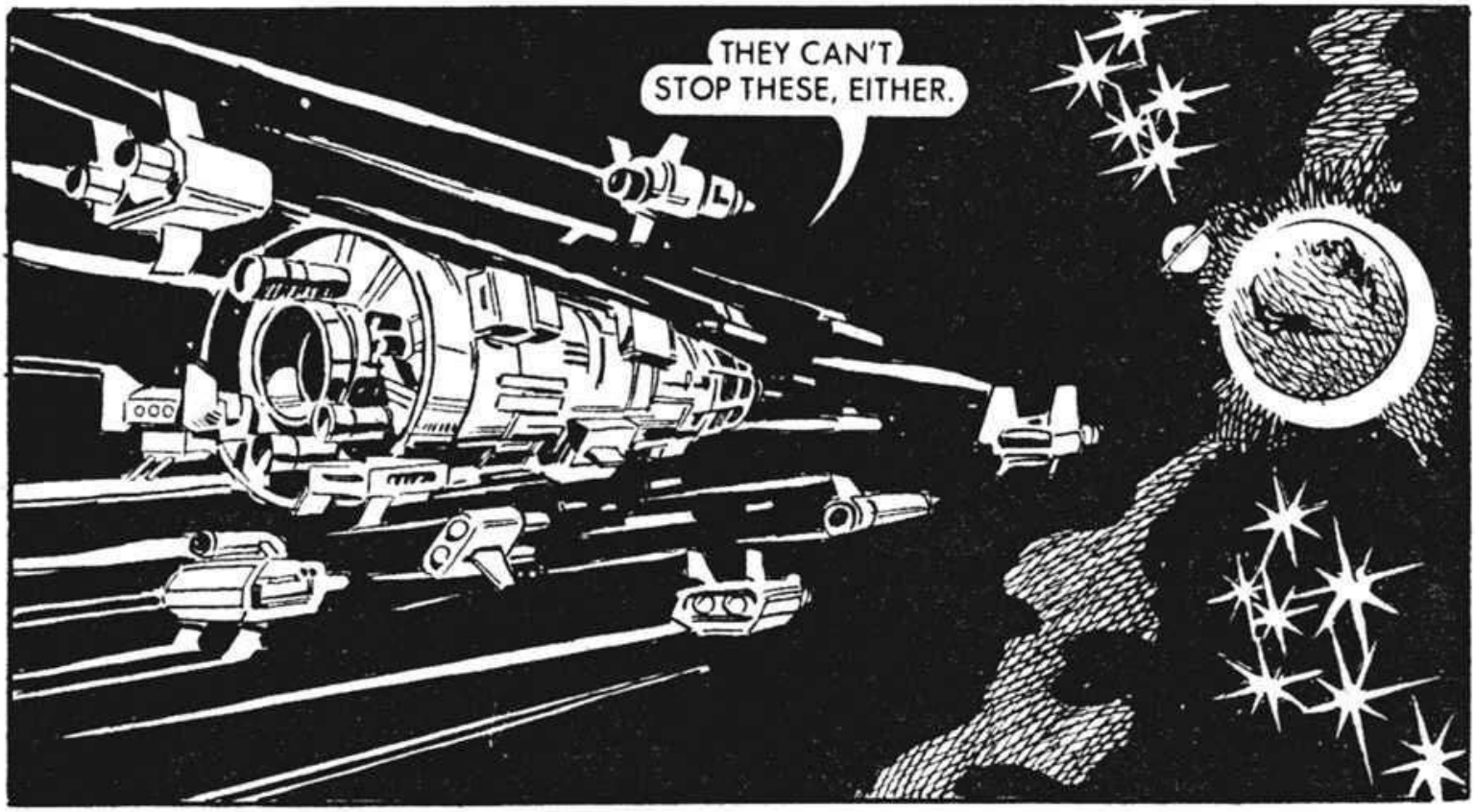
THE YAKUTZEE INTERCEPTOR OPENED FIRE.
THEY'VE HIT US WITH A MAGNETIC BLAST.


WE'RE STILL GOING, THOUGH.
ENEMY WITHIN LASER RANGE! FIRE!

IT'S LIKE FIREWORK NIGHT OUT THERE.

THE YAKUTZEE HAWKS WERE SITTING DUCKS—UNABLE TO PREVENT THE PROGRESS OF THE OLD FREIGHTER.

THEY'RE STILL POUNDING US WITH MAGNETIC BLASTS.
NO EFFECT SO FAR. THEY CAN'T STOP THIS OLD TUB! TIME TO LAUNCH OUR LIFEBOATS AND ESCAPE VESSELS.

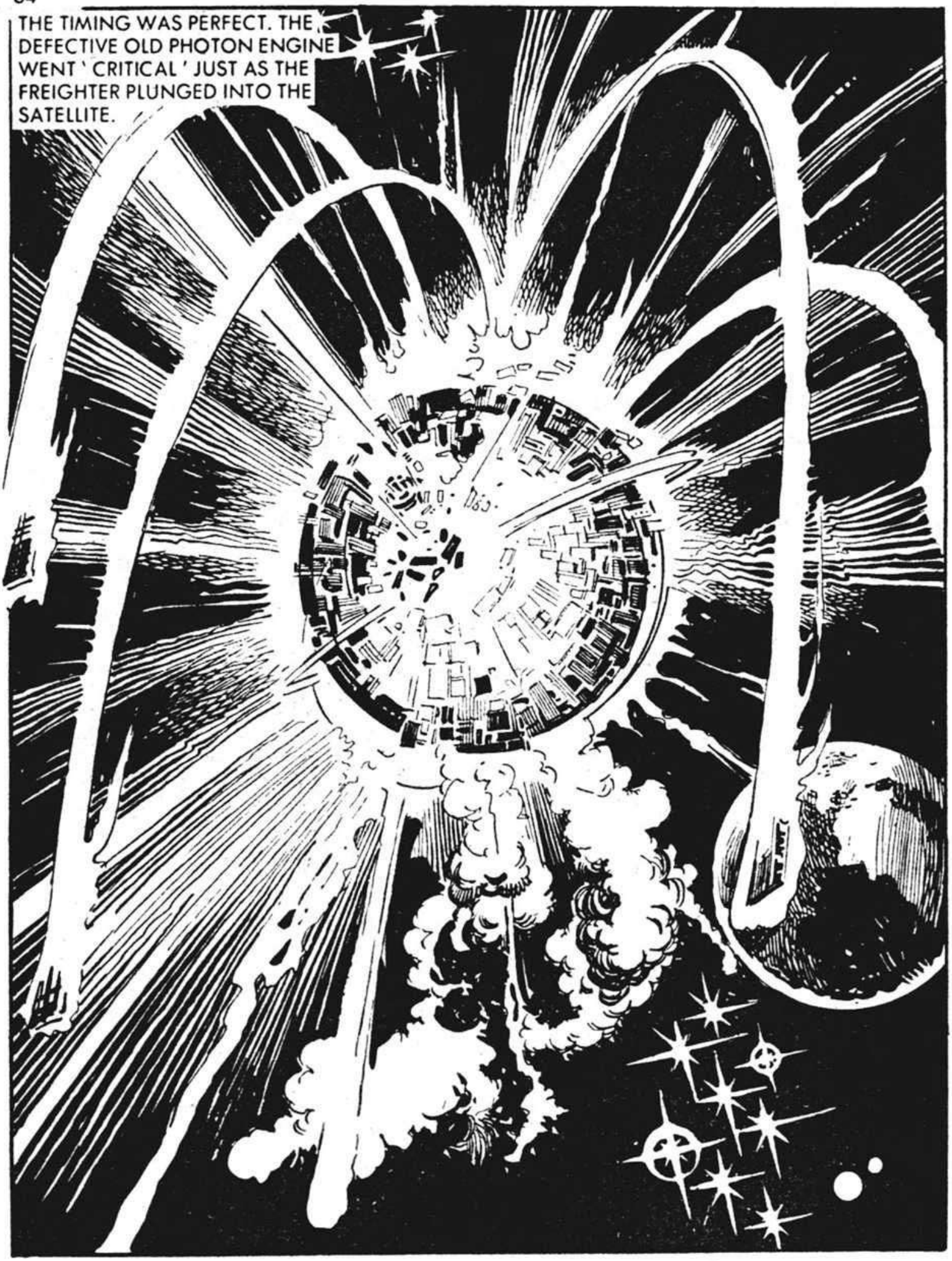


FINN MADE SOME PRECISE COURSE CALCULATIONS.

COURSE LOCKED.
LET'S HOPE SOMEONE'S LEFT US OUR ESCAPE CAPSULE!

DUFFY AND FINN EJECTED IN THEIR CAPSULE.
GOODBYE, OLD IRONSIDES!
HERE COMES THE TERROR SATELLITE!

THE FREIGHTER AND SATELLITE ARE ON A COLLISION COURSE.
YOU SAID THE ENGINE WOULD GO CRITICAL . . .
NOW!


THE TIMING WAS PERFECT. THE DEFECTIVE OLD PHOTON ENGINE WENT ' CRITICAL ' JUST AS THE FREIGHTER PLUNGED INTO THE SATELLITE.

THAT'S THE END OF YAKUTZEE POWER!

ON EARTH'S SURFACE.
LOOK! LOOK! THE SATELLITE'S BLOWN UP!
EH?

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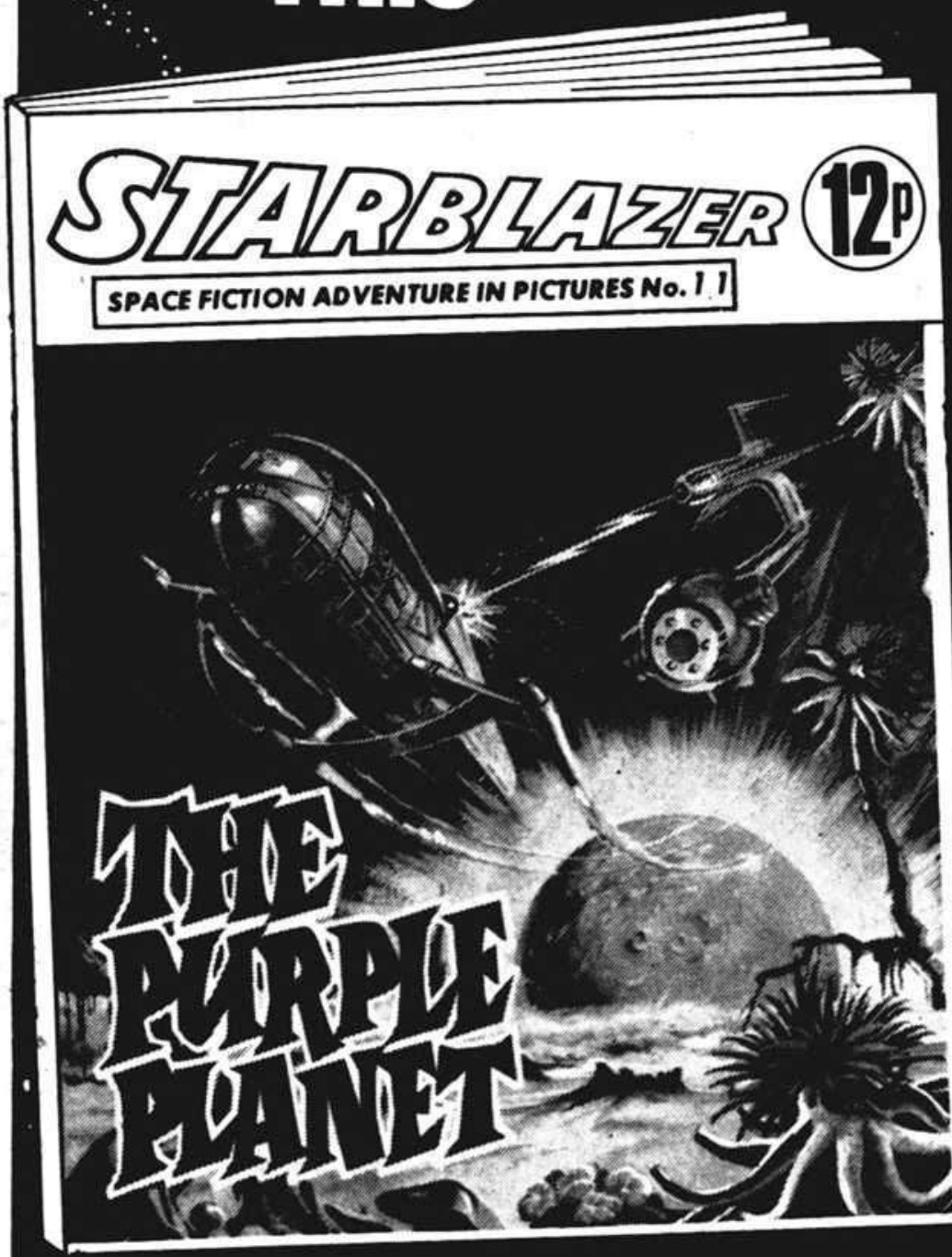
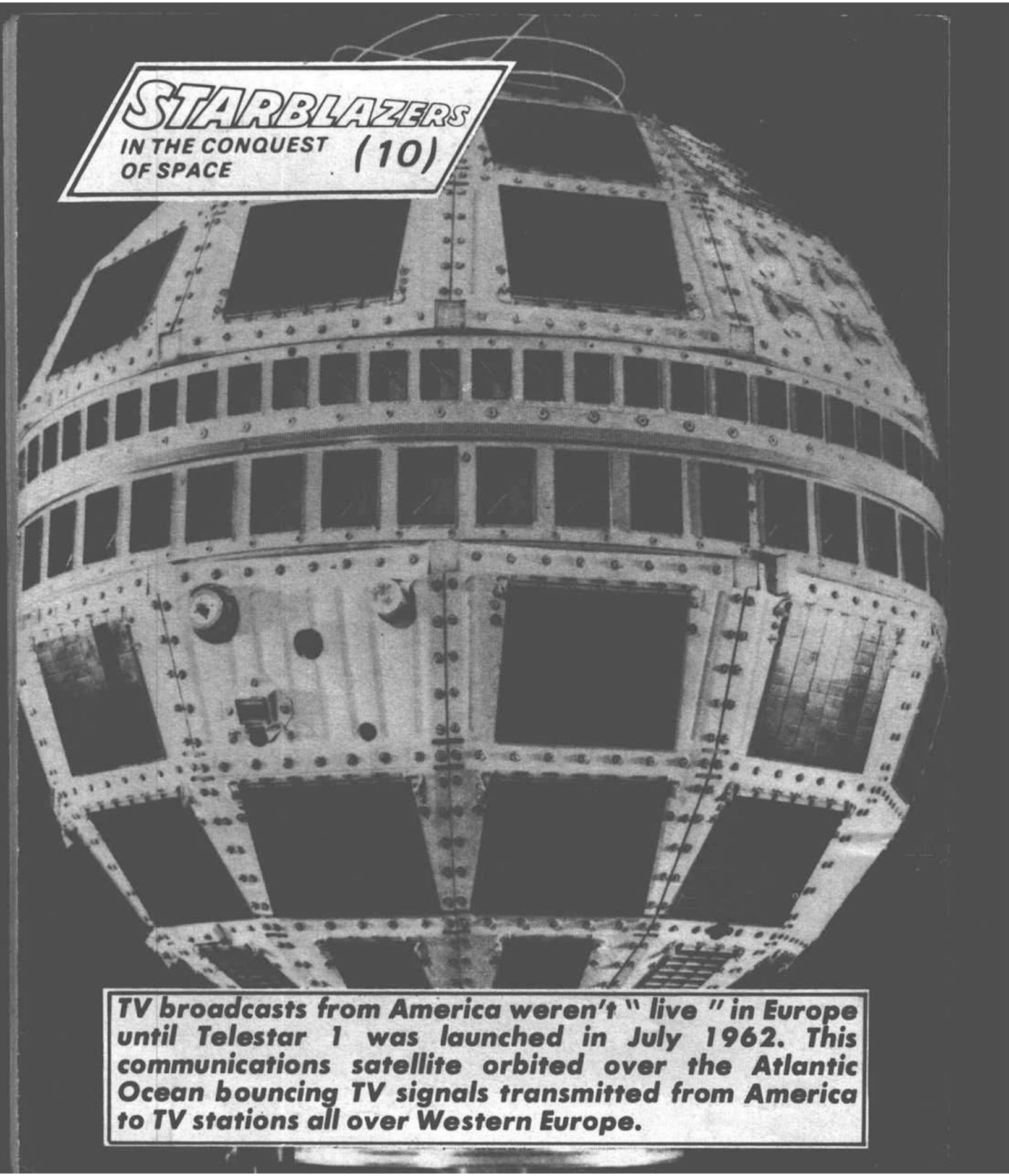
NOW THAT YOU'VE READ THIS



DON'T FORGET THAT THERE'S ANOTHER ONE THIS MONTH

IT'S ON SALE IN YOUR NEWSAGENT'S NOW!


STARBLAZERS
IN THE CONQUEST OF SPACE (10)
TV broadcasts from America weren't " live " in Europe until Telestar 1 was launched in July 1962. This communications satellite orbited over the Atlantic Ocean bouncing TV signals transmitted from America to TV stations all over Western Europe.